

Blanding's Turtle

Emydoidea blandingii

Last seen in 2000
at Fermilab



Photo: Roads & Grounds

** This photo was taken of the last Blanding's turtle seen at Fermilab. We hope to relocate them.

- Bright yellow chin and throat; notched upper jaw; hinged plastron.
- State endangered. Considered uncommon to rare in DuPage County.
- Habitat: quiet waters in marshes, prairie wetlands, wet sedge meadows, and shallow, vegetated portions of lakes.
- Seen: females nest in May and June.

Smooth Green Snake

Opheodrys vernalis

Recorded in 1989
at Fermilab



Photo: T. Schramer

- Only snake in the region with smooth scales and a solid coloration. Hatchlings are olive and become more brilliant green as they age. "Buff" or tan phase individuals can occur.
- Species of special concern. Considered rare in DuPage and Kane Counties.
- Habitat: moist prairie remnants, savannas, old fields, vacant lots, sedge meadows, and marshes in areas with minimal insecticide use. Often encountered along railroad tracks where small remnants exist.
- Seen: late April to October. Most readily seen in May and early June, but also found under cover on early, summer mornings.

Spring Peeper

Pseudacris crucifer

Heard by monitors in
2002 at Fermilab



Photo: T. Schramer

- Large toe pads; dark "X" on back; dark spot or narrow bar between eyes; tan, brown, or gray. About the size of a quarter.
- Sporadically distributed in northeast Illinois, but usually common where they do occur. Considered rare in DuPage County.
- Habitat: vernal ponds and marshes in or around forests, woodlands, and savannas. Ponds with emergent vegetation are preferred.
- Can be heard calling from March to May. Rarely seen outside the breeding season.

Northern Water Snake

Nerodia sipedon

Yet to verify at
Fermilab



Photo: T. Schramer

- Front $\frac{1}{4}$ has dark body bands, posterior pattern of alternating squares; belly light yellow with many red or brown half-moons.
- Abundant in the Fox River and present in the West Branch. This species' occurrence in Kress Creek is possible and likely the case historically. Considered uncommon in DuPage County, but can be abundant locally.
- Habitat: rivers, creeks, and adjacent marshes and ponds. Usually confined to the larger rivers and tributaries in the region.
- Seen: late April to September. Females give birth in mid-July and August.

Cope's & Eastern Gray Treefrogs

Hyla versicolor/H. chrysoscelis complex

Yet to verify at
Fermilab



Photo: T. Schramer

- Large toe pads; pale spot under eye; orange or golden yellow patches in groin and inner thigh. Adults exhibit a lichen pattern on their backs. Recently transformed juveniles are bright green and patternless.
- Locally common at some Chicagoland locales. Considered rare in DuPage County.
- Habitat: savannas and woodlands with long-lived ponds or marshes that hold water until later summer.
- Can be heard calling from April to June. Metamorphs can be found on grasses surrounding their ponds in August. Feeding adults and juveniles are often attracted to house lights and windows where insects accumulate.

Eastern Milk Snake

Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum

Yet to verify at
Fermilab



Photo: T. Schramer

- Black-bordered red or brown blotches or rings; belly white with sharply contrasting black spots. Eyes usually reddish. U, V, or Y-shaped spot on nape. Hatchlings usually lose their vibrant, red-and-white coloration as adults, turning more maroon and beige. Drab adults could be mistaken for Western Fox Snakes.
- Difficult to access due to this semi-burrowing snake's secretive nature. For this reason, this species is probably more prevalent than records show. Considered uncommon to rare in DuPage County.
- Habitat: old fields and prairie areas adjacent to tracts of oak savanna and mature woodlands. Raised foundations of old buildings may provide critical foraging and denning sites for this species.
- Seen: late April to October with May and September being most productive.

Northern Red-Bellied Snake

Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata

Yet to verify at
Fermilab



Photos: T. Schramer

- Three light spots just behind the head; plain red/orange belly; 2 dark stripes flanking light dorsal stripe; Coloration varies as many phases can occur from black to brownish-red.
- Considered rare in DuPage County, but locally abundant elsewhere in the region.
- Habitat: meadows and old fields near moist woodlands or forests. Areas with large slug populations.
- Seen: late April to November. Often found under logs in dried vernal pools in late summer.

Central Newt

Opheodrys vernalis

Yet to verify at
Fermilab



Photos: T. Schramer

- No costal grooves or distinct gular fold; raised crests between eyes. Black-dotted yellow belly contrasts sharply with sides. Aquatic adult has tail fin. Eft (Land Form) lacks tail fin, has more warty skin, and yellowish or reddish belly.
- Considered rare in DuPage and Kane Counties. Uncommon in the region.
- Habitat: permanent or semi-permanent ponds and marshes in or around savanna, flatwoods, or forest are preferred.
- Terrestrial adults and efts can be found under logs and other debris in early spring and mid to late summer. Aquatic adults can be dip-netted from ponds in April and May.

Graham's Crayfish Snake

Regina grahamii

Yet to verify at
Fermilab



Photo: M. Redmer

- Yellow stripe on scale rows 1-3; plain cream belly with black, zig-zag borders, bottom 1/3 with spots.
- Considered extremely rare in DuPage County and northeastern Illinois. Being considered for state listing.
- Habitat: prairie marshes and sluggish streams. The still-water, prairie equivalent of the queen snake, it lives in and along banks of soft-bottomed, heavily vegetated lakes, ponds, sluggish streams, sloughs, and roadside ditches.
- Seen: late April, May, and September. Secretive and difficult to catch, it basks on rock piles and branches overhanging water. Hibernates mostly in crayfish burrows.